



More than 85 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion played host to approximately 142 children from the Tai Chu En Orphanage during a Beach Bash at Torii Station recently. See story and photos on page 17.

August 17, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

INSIDE

NEWS

MCB Motor Transport recalls tires for safety

Marine Corps Bases' Motor Transport instituted several new regulations concerning 15-passenger vans on Okinawa in July. The changes came about as two recent accidents in the States resulted in Marine deaths.

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NEWS

31st MEU elements combine during MEUEX-1

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit revitalized its expeditionary capabilities during MEU Exercise-1 by fully integrating its combat elements as a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

see page 5 for more

FEATURE

MSSG-31 Marines tackle JWTC for survival training

MEU Service Support Group-31 underwent training to develop small-unit cohesion, gain exposure to more infantry-based training and learn how to survive in a jungle environment.

see page 10-11 for more

FEATURE

3rd Recon. Bn. improves under-water capabilities

Marines from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion participated in subsurface navigation diving exercises on Splash Beach. The exercise is designed to keep Marines qualified with diving operations and familiar with equipment.

see page 13 for more

SPORTS

Schwab Marines participate in Nago dragon boat races

Three Marine teams joined 123 others in the men's division of the 23rd Annual Nago City Mayor's Cup Dragon Boat Races. Race participants donned costumes and face paint as they competed for the trophy.

see page 14 for more

Corpsmen, Marine give first aid to Okinawan

SGT. STEPHEN I. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN – Four corpsmen and a Marine assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion and 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, were the first on the scene of a traffic accident that took place on the Okinawa Expressway Aug. 3.

The service members were leaving the central training area with a Marine who sustained an ankle injury and were transporting him to the Naval Hospital on Camp Lester when they came upon the accident.

Lance Cpl. Alexander A. Pearson, driver, Motor Transport, H&S Co., 3rd Med. Bn., and Seaman Athanial J. Johnston, armor custodian, H&S Co., 3rd Med. Bn. noticed the accident and immediately alerted Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Huff, independent duty corpsman, Group Aid Station, H&S Bn. Huff, who was looking after the injured ankle of the Marine, told Pearson to stop as they all rushed to offer assistance.

"No one asked us to help out," said Seaman Apprentice Lori R. Nelson, safety clerk, H&S Co., 3rd Med. Bn. "We just did with no hesitation and tried to make the best of a hard situation."

Huff approached the scene and noticed one of the drivers was underneath one of the vehicles. Seaman Apprentice Richard E. Woodell, logistics maintenance clerk, H&S Co., 3rd Med. Bn., crawled under the vehicle to try and evacuate the driver. Huff tried to see if the driver pinned under the car would move, but there was no response. He then noticed the vehicle being physically moved out of the way.

"There was a bunch of Japanese trying to move the cars," said Johnston. "I just rushed in and helped them out."

With Johnston's help, the vehicle was moved and the driver was no longer trapped under the car. Huff,

Life, continued on page 7



NAVY LT LISA BRACKENBURY

ROK, U.S. Marines improve teamwork

Republic of Korea Marines of the 1st Division Engineer Battalion stand ready during interoperability training with U.S. Marines of the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, at the Su Sung Training Range, South Korea. During the three-week training period, the Marines practiced weapons familiarization, construction techniques, conducted language training, and held sporting events. The training was designed to enhance interoperability, combat readiness and combined relations through equipment, and operational familiarization training.

SECNAV addresses safety

THE HONORABLE GORDON R. ENGLAND
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

As secretary and chief safety officer for the Department of the Navy, I strongly believe that our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees are our most important and valuable resource. Ultimately, the most advanced ships, aircraft and weapons in the world are of no benefit to our nation without Sailors and Marines.

As we focus on combat capability, we will also stay committed to providing quality of service – the combination of both quality of life and quality of work – on our ships, our bases and in our communities. Moving ahead quickly with improvements to military housing and work spaces is another key element in our agenda for the future of our people. In addition to making our work places and communities the best they can be, we will also make them the safest.

I ask that each Sailor, Marine and civilian employee serve as a chief of safety for their organizations and themselves. Simply put, every one of us must ensure the safety of ourselves

and of our Sailors, Marines, civilian and family members – both on and off duty. If we perform our safety roles with the same passion we dedicate to our combat missions, we will better manage risk, minimize needless injuries and enhance our combat credibility by avoiding needless loss of manpower and equipment due to safety mishaps.

During my tenure, we will ensure that our safety and health policies are clear, realistic and uniformly applied to all members on the Navy and Marine Corps teams. We will measure our progress in the safety arena by a few simple metrics that will be monitored. Our safety policies will also apply to all contractors who conduct business with the Department of the Navy and to anyone who enter DON properties, including all ships, aircraft, bases and housing.

You have my solemn pledge to do my best as the Department of Navy's chief safety officer, but we will only achieve our best if every member of the DON team carries out their duty as chiefs of safety responsibly.

Semper Fi and sail safe!

FORECAST

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Once off base, you are U.S. ambassadors — act accordingly

15-passenger van rollover risk leads to safety precautions

PFC. MARK S. ALLEN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Bases' Motor Transport instituted several new regulations concerning 15-passenger vans on Okinawa in July.

Two recent fatal accidents in the United States made safety an issue with the vans.

One of the accidents, just 80 miles from Camp Lejeune, N.C., killed three Royal Netherlands Marines, and injured six others. Two U.S. Marines were injured in the accident June 27.

In California, a van full of Marines popped a tire on the road and rolled over killing two Marines, injuring 10, and leaving one Marine in a coma.

Accidents like these were the reason a new policy on the amount of passengers allowed in the vans, a recall of all improper tires and safety briefings to all 15-passenger van drivers are some of the precautions Motor Transport is taking to ensure the safety of the Marines on Okinawa.

After the original tires that came with the 15-passenger vans became worn out, the vans received tires that were not the proper size that the manufacturer suggested. Motor Transport performed an inspection and recall of all improper tires on the vans. Before a 15-passenger van is operated, the driver checks the size and air pressure of the tires.

"One of the problems with [having low air pressure in tires] is that it causes heat build-up, and that brings wear and tear to the tires. When there is [low air pressure in a tire] it makes the vehicle wobbly, and that's a dangerous situation for the passenger," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Keith Reid MCB Motor Transport. "We took immediate action to ensure that everyone with that vehicle had proper tires. Motor transport's 21 15-passenger vans are inspected every day."

The number of passengers also influences the risk of a rollover. When the 15-passenger vans are fully loaded with passengers, it causes the center of gravity to shift when going around turns.

"When your vehicle is full it drives one way. When your vehicle is empty it drives another. A good driver knows that," said Maj. Roy M. Blizzard, base motor transport officer, MCB Motor Transport.



Ron D. Hodges, tool and parts attendant supervisor, Marine Corps Bases Motor Transportation, replaces a tire on a 15-passenger van. All tires on the 15-passenger vans were inspected and recalled due to the vans' rollover risk.

To reduce the risk of rollovers, the 15-passenger vans are now regulated to only carry eight passengers at a time.

"Road Masters are enforcing this. If a driver is caught out of regulations, the vehicle will be impounded. I think educating the operators is our best precaution," said Reid.

Drivers need a government license to drive a 15-passenger van in Okinawa. All drivers need a bus license as well, according to Japanese law. With the risks of driving the vans, operators also receive a safety brief. The operator then has to sign a statement saying that he has read and understands all the risks that are involved with the 15-passenger vans.

"What drivers need to understand is that each

vehicle has a different reaction with different situations. They need to slow down to give themselves a buffer-zone to ensure there won't be any fatalities, especially in Okinawa with the coral dust," Blizzard said.

The roads on Okinawa have coral in them. Friction from driving on the roads causes dust to form. When it rains the water and coral dust acts as a lubricant making the roads slippery. Signs are posted inside the vehicle warning drivers to maintain the speed limit and to ensure all passengers are wearing their seatbelt.

According to Reid, Base Motor Transport has taken all these precautions to reduce the potential of an accident in Okinawa, thus ensuring the safety of the drivers, passengers and other motorists.

VFW: supporting yesterday's, tomorrow's veterans today

LANCE CPL. KENNETH L. HINSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has supported military veterans, service members and their families since 1899.

Because of this loyal service, the VFW Commander-in-Chief and Director made quite an impact recently, when they returned to Okinawa after three years.

The visit came in the middle of a three-week Far East and South Pacific tour to military installations in Hawaii, Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan and Thailand.

During their visit here, VFW representatives discussed issues about national security and quality of life, which include pay, housing, healthcare and retirement benefits with senior military officials and service members. The visitors also toured military facilities and met with civilian leaders to gather information concerning international affairs such as community relations and partnership with the military.

"By visiting service members in person, it keeps us updated on current military issues and gives us the credibility to speak with Congress and national leaders in Washington, D.C.," said Bruce R. Harder, VFW director. "We have to understand how service members feel and why they feel the way they do."

The personal visits to military installations give VFW representatives opportunity to experience the issues service members bring to their attention. This close affiliation with service members gives VFW an advantage when they address Congress.

"We can say that we were there and saw for ourselves the concerns and issues that affect our deployed service members," Harder said. "By being there in person, VFW and Congress knows if the issue is worthwhile and will benefit our service members."

Besides having an advantage to address Congress, close contact also helps representatives get a better understanding of a deployed environ-

ment.

"Understanding how deployed service members feel is important to VFW because we know how service members feel, if we experience the same environment," said John F. Gwizdak, VFW commander-in-chief. "Honestly, it's necessary for us to be here with service members, so we will know what kind of resolution is needed."

VFW exists primarily to assist military veterans, but after 30 days of service, active duty personnel are also considered veterans. With more than 1.9 million members, the VFW is among the top 200 lobbying groups in the world.

"I think we are more effective than any other fraternal or military organization out there today," Gwizdak said. "We have the ability to testify directly to Congress, and we have a strong track record that follows us wherever we go."

VFW also focuses on providing a strong defense budget for the armed forces and accounts for all POW/MIAs

involved in war. Other programs the VFW supports include safety, legislative, civil service, community and youth activities.

"We were formed together, so we can represent the interest and needs of veterans and service members," Gwizdak said. "Our country and its service members need support to carry out their mission, and it's important we don't forget those who have carried out the mission before us."

VFW's involvement in so many programs depends highly on the support of active duty and retired service members, according to Harder.

"Service members mean so much to VFW because their voice, along with other voices, continues to help the military improve in so many ways," Harder said. "We need more service members to lend us their voice of opinion and participate in making a change."

For more information concerning VFW, or to become a member contact: www.vfw.org.

MEU elements combine forces during MEUEX-I

GUNNERY SGT. MARLON J. MARTIN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP HANSEN — The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit revitalized its expeditionary capabilities during MEU Exercise-I by fully integrating its combat elements as a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

The semiannual exercise was held here recently in various Okinawa training areas.

A stepping-stone in the MEU's quest to become special operations capable qualified, MEUEX-I is the second exercise the MEU has undergone in preparation for Special Operations Capable Exercise.

MEUEX-I provided intense training for MEU Marines, featuring all MEU elements. It focused on SOCEX mission profiles in a day and night environment, and ensured the basics of MAGTF mission execution were fully understood and practiced in a safe environment.

The MEU's mission during MEUEX-I was to conduct mission planning and execution using the Rapid Response Planning Process to facilitate integration as a MAGTF and to improve overall proficiency in the planning and execution of MEU (SOC) missions.

According to Capt. Kurt I. Gordon, fire support officer, 31st MEU, the MEU Exercises afford the major subordinate elements: ground combat element; aviation combat element; and MEU service support element, the opportunity to fully integrate and develop the team concept in MAGTF operations.

The first exercise the MEU had to overcome on the road to their SOC qualification was Training in an Urban Environment Exercise, a three-week exercise in Guam that trains Marines to fight in an urban environment while maximizing the unique capabilities of the 31st MEU.

The MEU achieved its training objectives during TRUEX last month to get its 17th training cycle started off on the right foot. For TRUEX, however, the MEU deployed only a small detachment of 176 Marines and Sailors.

MEUEX-I missions were conducted as if they were occurring aboard amphibious shipping. The Camp Hansen landing zones were used to represent the ships' flight deck, while workspaces in the Battalion Landing Team's command post were used to replicate critical command and control spaces aboard USS Essex.

The exercise was highlighted by various missions, to include: a combat rubber reconnaissance craft raid; a helicopter raid; a mechanized raid; humanitarian assistance, disaster relief; tactical recovery of aircraft personnel missions; mass casualty response and reconnaissance and surveillance operations.

With the MEU taking on new faces as a result of units rotating in and out of Okinawa every six months on the Unit Deployment Program, the biggest challenge during MEUEX-I was interoperability among the present and incoming MEU elements.

Unlike other MEUs that routinely



GUNNERY SGT. MARLON J. MARTIN

Marines attack Landing Zone Starling to conduct a helicopter raid as part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's MEU Exercise-I. MEUEX-I is the second exercise the MEU will undergo in preparation for Special Operations Capable Exercise 2-01.

train with their MSE's for six months before getting underway for a six-month deployment, the MEU here must complete all of its training and conduct its deployment within each six-month time period.

"There are a lot of new people, filling new roles. We're focused on working out the kinks, and getting all the MSEs to work together in unison with one another," Gordon said.

The MEU recently replaced its ground combat element with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, the Marine Corps' most decorated

infantry battalion.

The MEU also reinforced its aviation combat element with a Harrier and Hornet detachment from Marine Attack Squadron-311 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-224, respectively.

With more aviation assets, an energetic and proven ground force, along with continued support from the command element and its MEU service support element, the MEU is one step closer to achieving its goal of certification as Special Operations Capable.

LF Carat returns after successful three-month deployment

GUNNERY SGT. KENT FLORA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

WHITE BEACH, Okinawa — Marines and Sailors of Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2001 returned to Okinawa August 5, after spending the past three months working with the militaries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

To conclude the deployment and for the first time, U.S. Marines trained with the forces of Brunei during the sixth and final phase of CARAT 2001. The training culminated with Marines and the 3rd Battalion Brunei Land Force combining units and running through jungle movement and maneuver courses to build an understanding of one another's capabilities and a bond of friendship.

This year marked the seventh annual CARAT exercise, which is part of a series of bilateral training exercises between the U.S. and the six Southeast Asian countries, which Marines visited during May through July. The visits and training successfully increased cooperation and reinforced trust between the armed forces of the United States and the host-countries. But most of all, it proved immensely beneficial by building friendships and understanding of each others' culture and military capabilities.

CARAT 2001 demonstrated U.S. commitment in Southeast Asia while it increased operational readiness and capabilities of U.S. forces. The exercise also promoted cooperation with other countries, which is mutually beneficial, and continued to build lasting working relationships, adding to the security and stability in the region.

The experience and training that Marines received from each country was unique and beneficial, accord-

ing to their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Rick Adams.

"Every one of my expectations as the commanding officer were exceeded," explained Adams. "First, Marines were exposed to countries they normally wouldn't see or are not familiar with. They were also able to hone their skills regardless of their jobs, in areas such as amphibious operations, field exercises and administrative duties. Lastly, we were able to learn from the host-nations different techniques and skills and incorporate them into our daily routines."

Adams, commenting on what commanders get back from LF CARAT, said that the Marines who get assigned to CARAT are a little bit better trained Marine from the experience they receive.

"The Marines going back to their units are going back with a better, broader knowledge base of Southeast Asian countries we worked with," he said. "They are Marines who provide for a better interoperability. They have conducted military operations and seen the countries firsthand. They have learned the courtesies and have been ingrained with the customs of that particular country. They are Marines who are a little more savvy because they have seen a little more of the world. It takes a total commitment, a team effort; we had that team and commitment during CARAT 2001."

Commitment was a major factor undertaken by the unit providing most of the training while in country. Much of the training, whether giving or receiving, fell upon the Ground Combat Element (GCE) leathernecks of K Co., 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment from 29 Palms, Calif. The K Co. commanding officer echoed Adams saying it was a total team effort and commented on the performance of his Marines.

"The deployment was a success because everyone worked together as a team," said Maj. Paul Moore,

commanding officer, K Co., 3/7, 1st Marine Division. "Working with so many different countries, providing different training requirements for both them and us and doing it all in a three-month period is a notable accomplishment and shows the dedication of the Marines. I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments of my Marines, they did all the hard work and showed off the Corps' true professional demeanor."

With the emphasis of CARAT being bilateral training, one Marine assigned to the Landing Force said it was an experience that cannot be measured in full.

"CARAT exercises benefit both us and our host nations because it allows us to work closely together, getting to know how we each conduct business and creates understanding and friendships," said Cpl. Michael Echevarria, machinegun team leader, K Co., 3/7.

The Waldwick, N.J. native also commented on the professionalism of the forces he worked with saying they were extremely competent and very friendly toward their American counterparts. "The foreign troops that I have worked with were extremely professional and very disciplined. The training that we've received definitely benefited us. While we were in Malaysia, actual tribesman, who had to live what they taught, before joining the military, gave the classes on jungle survival. I got a lot out of the training in all the countries."

The 22-year-old Echevarria, who is no stranger to deployments—this being his fourth, said that teaching deployments such as CARAT need to be continued.

"As a small unit leader, if I'm required to train the junior Marines, I have to be able to give them all the tools to conduct the training. We need to continue using exercises like CARAT to keep our junior Marines proficient."

Oshkosh presents new 7-ton truck to MPS ships

STAFF SGT. TIMOTHY HODGE
BLOUNT ISLAND COMMAND

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY, Ga. — Oshkosh Truck Corporation officially presented the new 7-Ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement to the Marine Corps' Maritime Prepositioning Force in July. In a ceremony held at the Marine Corps facility aboard Blount Island in Jacksonville, FL., the new MTRV became part of the Marine Corps' war fighting capability.

The ceremony included a briefing on the new MTRV and a ribbon cutting ceremony that was immediately followed by the loading of the new vehicles onto the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Ship M.V. 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo.

"We are proud to be able to provide the Marines with a state-of-the-art medium truck that they can take into combat with confidence. The MTRV is the benchmark for modern tactical truck performance. Its extreme mobility, rugged design, and off-road capability make it the perfect choice for the Marine Corps," said Steve Zink, MTRV project manager for the Oshkosh Truck Corporation.

Blount Island Command, home to the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Force, is the first Marine installation to receive the new MTRV. This makes the vehicles available for immediate use during exercises and contingency operations conducted by the forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Forces. The delivery of the new 7-Ton MTRVs to Blount Island for deployment aboard



OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO

The Marine Corps' Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, is replacing the M939/M809 series trucks.

the MPF ships will continue until all 14 ships in the MPF fleet have completed a maintenance cycle through the Blount Island facility. Over 1,100 MTRVs will be deployed aboard MPF ships when

the cycle is completed.

The Marine Corps' Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, is replacing the M939/M809 series trucks.

Marine extinguishes truck fire, honored for heroism

STAFF SGT. NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP KINSER— Sergeant Douglas Davis, road master, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was honored by Okinawan officials August 3 at the Camp Kinser's G-3 conference room for keeping a burning truck from exploding in February.

Davis was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a traditional Japanese Hakata Ningyo doll for his actions.

"We would have ended up closing the expressway for at least two to three hours if that truck had exploded," said

Tetsuro Kubo, director of Japan's Public Highway Corporation, Okinawan Office.

Davis was heading southbound on the expressway when he noticed smoke and flames coming from a civilian cargo truck.

The smoke was so thick that it was hard to see, according to Davis.

After seeing the truck, Davis stopped his vehicle, turned his hazard and code lights on, grabbed his fire extinguisher, and ran toward the truck.

"First, I checked the vehicle to make sure no one was inside," Davis said. "Then, I attempted to extinguish the fire."

After extinguishing most of the fire, he noticed a chemical substance beginning to ignite right below the fuel tank.

"I ran back to my truck and grabbed cones and a second fire extinguisher," Davis said. "I put the cones out as I was running back toward the burning truck."

Upon approaching the truck, Davis noticed a second Marine had appeared with another extinguisher. That

Marine has yet to be identified.

"We attempted to smother the fire and push the chemical substance away from the fuel tank until we exhausted our extinguishers," Davis said.

The fire was almost extinguished when the fire department arrived.

After the fire department arrived, Davis moved into the street directing traffic around the vehicle.

"Sergeant Davis stopped and helped regardless of nationality," Kubo said. "I am very moved by his courage and bravery."



STAFF SGT. NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.

Marine Sgt. Douglas Davis, road master, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was honored by Tetsuro Kubo, director of Japan's Public Highway Corporation, Okinawan Office, August 3 at the Camp Kinser's G-3 conference room for keeping a burning truck from exploding in February. Davis was presented with a letter of appreciation and a traditional Japanese Hakata Ningyo doll for his actions.

Life, continued from page 1

Woodell, Johnston and Nelson relied on their military training and started to work.

"At first I thought it was a regular car crash," Pearson said. "After the corpsmen started to do their work, I couldn't watch anymore, so I started to direct traffic around the accident."

With Johnston keeping the driver's head still, the others turned him over onto his back so they could start Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Woodell, with the use of a CPR mask, started mouth to mouth.

"As I was continuing to hold his head, I thought this is really happening," Johnston said. "I never thought I'd see this. I work in an armory, not a clinic."

Huff surveyed the driver and noticed that the driver had suffered major wounds to the right hip and abdomen area as well as facial and neck trauma.

"It all happened kind of fast," Woodell said. "There is not a lot of time to stop and think about what you need to do. What you learned at school starts to kick in and takes over."

As time went by more people started to gather around the scene from cars that were backed up due to the traffic and someone called the paramedics.

"On TV you see this stuff all the time," Johnston said. "But it's different when you are really there. You smell everything, you hear all the sounds and it all causes a little shock."

Upon the arrival of the Japanese Emergency Medical Specialists they assisted the efforts of the corpsmen. Huff directed Woodell, Nelson and Johnston to continue as he helped the Japanese.

The corpsmen continued CPR until the driver was in the ambulance where the Japanese EMS continued the efforts.

"As I got up and walked off after holding his head, I felt a cold breeze on my hands," Johnston said. "I looked and my hands were covered in blood from holding this guy's head."

The shock of the accident scene struck the corpsmen afterwards. The smell, activity, sounds, and accident are permanently engraved in their minds the corpsmen agreed. Similarly, their training was what they relied on.

"These corpsmen work with H&S Co., not in a clinic," said Chief Petty Officer Steven V. Greene, Logistics and Embarkation chief, H&S Co., 3rd Med. Bn. "They knew what they needed to do and they did it. They did it very well."

"We don't regret stopping and we don't regret helping out," Nelson said.

NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for Aug. 5 - 11.

• Underage drinking

A lance corporal with Marine Aircraft Group-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

A lance corporal with MAG-36, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$607 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 30 days.

A lance corporal with MAG-12 was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$584 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

• Driving Under the Influence

A sergeant with MAG-36, 1st MAW, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of driving under the influence. Punishment: reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$826 pay per month for two months and restriction/extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking and drunk and disorderly

A private first class with Support Company, Camp Fuji, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of underage drinking and of being drunk and disorderly. Punishment: forfeiture of \$272 pay for one month and restriction /extra duties for 14 days.

TMO TIPS

The following are tips from the Traffic Management Office.

For more information, contact the local Traffic Management Office or Gunnery Sgt. Quirindongo at 645-0966.

- Ensure you are at your quarters between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on your pick up date. Otherwise, you will be assessed an attempted pick-up charge.

- Have expensive and valuable items (artwork, collectibles) appraised. The government will not pay for appraisals, but consider this an investment in the event of loss or damage. Do not ship small and extremely valuable items such as stocks, bonds, jewelry, coin collections and items with sentimental value such as photo albums. Either hand carry these items or mail them by registered or insured mail.

- You have 70 days from the day of delivery to inspect your property. If you find any loss or damage not reported on the DD Form 1840 at the time of delivery, complete section A on the back side of the 1840. The completed form must be delivered to the claims section no later than 70 days from the date of delivery. Call 645-7108 for more information.

- If you are on an unaccompanied tour and receive orders less than 10 working days advance before your flight date, you can bring your personal property into the Camp Hansen or Camp Foster office. TMO will need six copies of your orders for each shipment and proof of your home of record (page 4 from your service record book) if going W-95 for separations. At Camp Foster, contact 645-0922 and at Camp Hansen contact 623-4337.



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MARJORIE MCNAMEE

III MEF Band in Guam

PITI, Guam - Members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band perform for Mrs. Tina Fellin, wife of Rear Adm. Tom Fellin, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, during an open house hosted by the admiral and his wife in celebration of Guam's Liberation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

III MEF/JGSDF concert

The III Marine Expeditionary Band and the 1st Combined Brigade Band of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force will hold their 6th Annual "Friendship Through Music" Concert 7 p.m. Sept. 1 at the Okinawa Civic Hall in Okinawa City outside of Kadena Gate 2.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call 645-3919.

Marine Corps University classes

Marine Corps University is accepting enrollments for the 2001-2002 academic year which begins October 2001.

Amphibious Warfare School Phase I, AWS II and Command & Staff will be taught in seminar with adjunct faculty. The diploma is the same as the resident diploma and these courses are equivalent to the resident diploma for promotion and assignment. The Command & Staff College is a Joint Professional Military Education phase I accredited school.

Seminars meet once a week for two hours. Sign up now so materials will be received prior to the Oct. 1 start date.

For more information, contact Col. James P. Hopkins, USMC retired, or Betty Eisenmann at 645-2230/2500, e-mail hopkinsjp@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or go to the MCU website at mcu.mcbbutler.usmc.mil.

Commander's Access channel

The below listed programs will be broadcast on Channel 7 each day from Aug. 18-24 at the times listed. Run times are listed in italics.

5 a.m.: "The Crucible" (Video on Marine Corps boot camp.) *21:20*

5:25 a.m.: 55th Iwo Jima Anniversary *44:20*

8 a.m.: "Your Corps" *28:00*

8:30 a.m.: "Navy/Marine Corps News" *28:00*

Noon: "The Crucible" *21:20*

12:25 p.m.: 55th Iwo Jima Anniversary *44:20*

5 p.m.: "Woman of the Year" (1999 Woman of the Year ceremony) *25:00*

5:25 p.m.: "Cultural Driving Differences in Okinawa" *14:00*

7 p.m.: "Cultural Driving Differences in Okinawa" *14:00*

8 p.m.: "Your Corps" *28:00*

8:30 p.m.: "Navy/Marine Corps News" *28:00*

DRMO sale

The DRMO sale at Camp Kinser will have a local sealed bid sale at Building 600. Inspection dates for the sale will take place Sept. 10-12. The open day for bids is Sept. 13.

Local sealed bids are open to SOFA and non-SOFA status personnel. Items will include household furniture, vehicles, electrical items, scrap metals textiles and much more.

For more information on the sale, call 637-3707/4323.

Baby class

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is holding Budget for Baby classes monthly at the Camp Foster and Camp Kinser offices.

Navy and Marine Corps expectant moms can learn how to save on baby items, do a budget and receive a free layette worth \$70.

This does not have to be your first baby.

To register for the class, call 645-7808.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

Gunnery sergeants rule:

Ingenuity of Corps' E-7s make mission accomplishment happen



SGT. MAJ. STEPHEN H. MELLINGER
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC SERGEANT MAJOR

The ingenuity displayed by Marines, especially gunnery sergeants, never ceases to amaze me. Gunnies, and particularly company gunnies, are the real experts in the Corps at making things happen to accomplish a task or mission. Gunnies are the glue that holds the Corps together.

What everyone else may view as impossible, the old company gunny simply sees it as just another challenge to keep the unit running smooth. The remarkable thing is that they can make things happen, or appear or disappear almost effortlessly. Gunnies are every leader's "Go To" Marine. Yes, when a unit is in need, they inevitably look to the gunny.

Now the important thing to understand, when you look to the gunny to make things happen, it's a NO NO to come back to him after he "saves your bacon" to ask any questions!

Smart commanders never ask their company Gunny how they got the seemingly impossible accomplished. Nor do they ever ask the gunny where he came up with gear and supplies that the unit didn't possess the day before. And when your unit is co-located with other service units, don't be surprised if your gunny is heard saying something like, "this is like being a kid in a candy

store." Again, don't ask what he meant. He or she would simply smile at you without offering any explanation.

I can't imagine how the Corps would ever accomplish a mission without having its gunnery sergeant.

One of my fondest memories of a gunny's "magic" happened during the Gulf War.

About 20 Marines from my unit and I were in Saudi Arabia and needed to get back to Bahrain that evening!

The plane scheduled to get us there was diverted to somewhere else. A handful of officers and I were standing around complaining to each other of how "gooned up" the situation was. We had no food, no water and nowhere to spend the night.

I didn't notice him missing, but our gunny had seemed to vanish. "Great," I said to myself. Not only are we stuck in Saudi, but also my gunny was lost. I should have known better. About 10 minutes passed when a civilian bus pulled up and stopped right in front of us.

As its door flew open who do we see? It was our gunny with a big grin on his face. "Get on board everyone," he says. "And make sure you wipe your feet as you enter 'my' bus."

Knowing not to ask any questions, all of us hurried onto the bus to begin our trip. About half way through the four-hour ride to Bahrain, my curiosity got the best of me. I had to know how the gunny pulled off this miracle.

I called him over and asked where the bus came from. Being that I once was a gunny, I have

the right to at least ask how he performed this act.

He explained that as "the gunny" he needed to take care of his unit's Marines. To do that he zeroed in on an empty civilian bus being driven by a Saudi Arabia local, who hardly spoke any English.

What the gunny did learn from the bus driver was that he was supposed to pick up a group of Air Force personnel and take them somewhere he (the bus driver) hadn't learned yet. Knowing that the Air Force group wasn't there yet, the gunny began working his charm and magic on the bus driver.

Although the gunny had no trouble convincing the unsuspecting driver that we were the Air Force group he was there to pick up, it took his best effort to convince the driver he was suppose to take us to another country! Once we arrived at our unit, we fed the driver a good meal and wished him well on his return trip back to Saudi Arabia.

Being the caring gunny he was (always concerned for personnel), I recall his last words to the bus driver. "Sir," he said to the bus driver, "I believe that there is yet another group of Air Force personnel waiting on you where you picked us up, who also needs you to take them somewhere."

Truly, our Corps' gunnery sergeants are our magical go to Marines. For you younger Marines, that is the ultimate rank you should aspire to be. As we all know, regardless if we are subordinate or superior (in grade) to a gunny, we know who's really running the show!

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Wearing your Army gloves

You are a squared away Marine at work and on your free time. One day at work you see a fellow Marine leaning against the wall with his hands in his pockets. You understand there is no Marine Corps order against this behavior, but you also know that Marines hold themselves to the highest standard in the military with their behavior and uniform appearance. With this in mind, what do you do?

What the Marines said

Gunnery sergeant with 3rd Force Service Support Group: Even though there is no regulation against it, our standards are important for us to uphold. I would let him know how I felt about it, and tell him to remove his hands from his pockets.

Private first class with Marine Corps Base: I wouldn't embarrass him in front of everyone, so I would take him aside and tell him to take his hands out of his pockets. If he did not like it, I would then explain to him

why I felt the way I did.

Corporal with 1st Marine Air Wing: I would approach him and tell him that he is failing to uphold the Marine Corps code of conduct by his actions. He is letting himself down, but most importantly, the Corps.

Corporal With 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit: I would totally correct him even though it is not an order. You need to remain professional at all times.

What the Chaplain said

Chaplain: Have you ever noticed that there are unwritten rules and standards of behavior for any group of human beings? Grooming, posture, and appearance are all part of being a professional.

All of the Marines asked about this scenario talked about behaving as a Marine and what that means. I think I like the MCB, PFC's response the best, however. He says he wouldn't embarrass the Marine, but would take him aside. Sometimes public loss of face might be useful. However, often we don't take the time to think about why someone may be acting the way they do. The PFC's response provides an opportunity to not only correct the behavior, but to engage in a conversation.

Perhaps the Marine was just not thinking. Or, perhaps the Marine was distracted by thinking about some bad news from home or some other stressful event. We'll never know unless we are paying attention to those around us. Personnel situation awareness is good leadership, and that's part of being a good Marine.

- Navy LT Jerome A. Hinson, deputy Group chaplain, 3rd FSSG



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Rumble in the jungle



MSSG-31 Marines take on the challenge of the Jungle Warfare Training Center

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. John Hoellwarth

CAMP HANSEN — Marines of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit recently traveled to the northern tip of the island to train at the Jungle Warfare Training Center.

MEU Service Support Group-31 underwent the training to develop small unit cohesion, gain exposure to a more infantry-based training and learn how to survive in a jungle environment.

The Marines pushed their stamina to the limits during the week-long course by negotiating the grueling training schedule. Among the challenges imposed by the rigorous training were rappelling and land navigation. Additionally, the training culminated in an all-day endurance course that tested the Marines' leadership skills and ability to work as a team.

According to Lt. Col. John W. Simmons, commanding officer, MSSG-31, the training successfully builds unit cohesion, basic skills and leadership techniques among his noncommissioned officers.

When asked what he was getting out of the course, Sgt. James John Fuentes, one of MSSG-31's squad

leaders, colorfully replied that he was getting worn out.

"We're not an infantry unit, but we're out here in the mud getting combat training," Fuentes said. And with that, Fuentes turned to his wet, tired and mud-covered Marines and said, "Hey, we just had a five minute break! Let's go! Move those legs!"

According to Gunnery Sgt. Richard T. Smith, chief instructor, JWTC, one of the hardest things about the Jungle Skills Course is land navigation. This is because visibility in the jungle is often limited to 15-20 meters. Also, topographical maps of jungle environments fail to take into account the treacherous micro terrain features.

Planning for MSSG-31's participation in the course began in June, shortly after the unit returned from Queensland, Australia, where the unit participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust. Sgt. Maj. Anthony L. Carter was eager to have his Marines participate in the course. According to him, the course instills intangible qualities and 'jungle know-how' in his Marines.

"This training builds the Marines' self confi-

dence," Carter said, while watching his Marines low crawl through the mud of the endurance course. "A lot of my Marines are new. This training gives them confidence, pride in the Corps, a challenge and the opportunity to relate to the infantry side of the Corps."

Carter, who has gone through the course twice, feels that the training better prepares his unit to handle anything they may encounter while attached to the MEU.

After watching his Marines diligently make their way through the challenges of the endurance course, Simmons said his Marines did a great job considering they were operating outside of their (MOS).

Though the training had taken its toll on the minds and bodies of the Marines, Simmons said it was something to which they could look back on and smile.

"All the Marines are dog tired. But if you talk to them in a couple of weeks, they'll all be telling stories," he said. "Hills will become mountains and puddles will become lakes."



A Marine from MEU Service Support Group-31 emerges from an underwater tunnel while participating in the Jungle Skills Course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center.



Corporal Robert D. Adams, heavy equipment operator, MSSG-31, struggles through the endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center. The Marines of MSSG-31 participated in the jungle warfare training to enhance their self confidence, leadership skills and unity.



During the endurance course at the Jungle Warfare Training Center, Marines from MSSG-31 teamed up to move a simulated casualty through treacherous terrain.



Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force Capt. Akikazu Shibasaki (right) explains how the FH-70 Howitzer is loaded to Lt. Col. John H. O'Hey, commanding officer, 3/12 (left) July 15.

3/12 observes JGSDF artillery training

2ND LT. JULIANNE H. SOHN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

OJOJIHARA, Japan — Eight Marines from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment visited the artillery gun position of a Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force battalion July 15.

The group led by Lt. Col. John H. O'Hey, commanding officer, 3/12, and Maj. Darin S. Morris, commanding officer, I Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment — which is attached to 3/12 on the Unit Deployment Program — observed the live-fire training being conducted by 1st Battalion, 6th Artillery Regiment, 6th Division, North Eastern Army.

The Marines spent the afternoon learning the basics of JGSDF artillery live-fire and discovered the similarities and difference in training.

"It is amazing how similar we do things although there are differences," O'Hey said.

Two batteries, which are company-sized elements in an artillery battalion, were at the gun position with a total of seven guns. During I Battery, 3/11's training, they used three guns.

Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force Capt. Akikazu Shibasaki, battery commander, 1st Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Artillery Regiment, NEA, escorted the Marines to the Fire Direction Center, the gun line and the executive officer's pit.

"The FDC receives the fire mission, computes the firing data and transmits the data to the gun line," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeffery S. Nebel, survey officer, 3/12. "The forward observers are the eyes, the FDC is the brain and the gun line is the body."

The executive officer's pit is the center of the gun line where the executive officer and battery gunnery sergeant monitor the operations of the gun line, according to Nebel.

"The [JGSDF] howitzers fire the same 155 mm

rounds as the Marine Corps' [M198] Howitzers," Shibasaki said.

The JGSDF use FH-70 German-made, towed howitzers, which weigh nine tons. Unlike the M198 Howitzer, the FH-70 can be driven short distances to ensure proper placement. It handles like a tractor and has similar steering, according to Gunnery Sgt. Roger M. Dill, survey chief and battalion assistant operations chief, 3/12.

The artillery battalion fired mostly HE — High Explosive — rounds and occasionally sent a WP — White Phosphorous — round down range.

"I've never seen these howitzers before," said Dill, who has observed the Israeli and Jordanian Armies fire the M109 Self-Propelled Howitzers in a previous exercise. "They load quickly and they're not bad at all."

This was O'Hey's first time on a Japanese gun line. "If they do something better than us, then we want to copy it," said O'Hey. "We also want to know why we don't use their howitzer as opposed to ours. It's just general curiosity. We're all artillerymen."

The Marines inquired about various safety measures, how the Japanese use their aiming circles and what sort of maintenance had to be performed on their FH-70 Howitzer.

"The Japanese use a metal block to restrict the movement of the traverse and elevation gears to prevent the weapon from being 'pointed' out of safe," Nebel said. "They also have a designated safety non-commissioned officer on each gun that verifies the powder charge and quadrant and elevation prior to firing."

On a Japanese howitzer, one soldier acts as the gunner, the assistant gunner and the "lanyard" puller, according to Gunnery Sgt. Vincent Tristan, battery gunnery sergeant, I Battery, 3/11.

"There are definitely a lot of similarities, but they

use a one man — two sights system," Tristan said. "One man will do elevation and traversing while we use two people to do the same thing."

The guns would fire and send shock waves throughout the immediate area. Despite being issued earplugs, the noise was deafening.

"The [JGSDF] howitzers are definitely a lot louder," said Dill, who spoke on behalf of most of the Marines.

"Their guns are a lot heavier because they use more metal and they have front-end drive for positioning," said Tristan.

"It's definitely a different approach," Morris said. "It's not right or wrong, but two different ways of handling it. There were actually a lot of things I liked [about the JGSDF's artillery training]. I liked their auxiliary service unit, which helped place the guns, their magazine fed primer system and their auto-loader."

The auxiliary service unit is the motor and gears that allows the howitzer to move itself at 15 kilometers per hour. The magazine primer automatically loads the primer into the breech of the howitzer's firing mechanism, according to Nebel.

"The Japanese howitzers didn't have a big enough recoil, which affects the howitzers accuracy," Morris said. "The JGSDF soldiers were very professional and very defensive oriented."

The most notable difference between Marine live fire training and that of the JGSDF were the different missions.

The JGSDF training tends to be static because of their defensive focus. Marines conduct most of their training in the offense, which requires moving quickly from one location to the next, according to Morris.

"The Japanese have a defensive mindset," Tristan said. "They sit and wait while we are mobile and go to the fight. We don't wait."

Staying amphibious

A 3rd Recon Bn. Marine dives off a Zodiac 1500 meters from his assigned target.

3rd Recon Bn. brushes up on skills by diving down

PFC. MARK S. ALLEN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP SCHWAB — Marines from 3rd Platoon, B Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, participated in subsurface navigation diving exercises from July 30 through August 10 on Splash Beach, Okinawa.

The exercise is designed to keep Marines qualified with diving operations and properly trained with their equipment.

During the exercise, Marines dive into the ocean 1,500 meters off shore and navigate 20 feet below the surface back to land.

The Recon Marines swim in their utilities with a compass, 60-pound ruck sack and the MK-25, an underwater breathing device that enables Marines to swim underwater unde-

tected without having bubbles rise to the surface.

"For infiltration swims, it's necessary for the Marines to get to their target unseen by the enemy," said Capt. Dan M. O'Connor, training dive officer in charge, B Co., 3rd Recon Bn, 3rd MarDiv.

"These are familiarization dives," said Sgt. Tim A. Knight, special equipment noncommissioned officer, B Co., 3rd Recon Bn, 3rd MarDiv. "One of the goals of the Marines is to become comfortable with the equipment especially, with a heavy ruck sack like they're using."

"Recon has two means of insertion in a combat situation, by air and by water," Knight said. "Air can be easily compromised while water is the more stealthy and likely way to

insert, and that's why we need to be proficient with diving. The Marines are working their way up to a full profile mission where they dive in and perform a patrol on land."

Diving is inherently hazardous. Ascending too quickly in the water can cause sickness. Marines who do ascend to fast must spend six hours in a decompression chamber. As a precaution, medical personnel monitor the dives.

"We get down there and push each other to do our best, but of course, safety is paramount," said Cpl. Jonathan M. Turner, point man, B Co., 3rd Recon Bn, 3rd MarDiv.

Marines using the MK-25 breathe pure oxygen, which is dangerous at certain depths.

"When breathing pure oxygen, 25 feet is the maximum depth, but for

this exercise we're using 20 feet as a safety measure," Knight said.

"Training like this is imperative to keeping us qualified divers," Turner said. "Diving is very dangerous, but it's effective and we enjoy our job."

Besides Marine Combatant Divers, Special Forces are the only units allowed to use the MK-25. Special training with the use of the MK-25 is not only dangerous but also rewarding for the Recon Marines.

"Recon is doing realistic training to support the infantry because we know they depend on us," said Sgt. Robert G. Boyce, team leader, B Co., 3rd Recon Bn, 3rd MarDiv. "Recon likes this kind of training because it's demanding. This is why we joined the Marine Corps. I don't think I could find a more satisfying job in the world, and I'm getting paid to do it."



The Light Armored Reconnaissance, Combat Assault Battalion team gives their final push to get across the finish line before one of their opponents. The LAR team was one of three Marine Corps teams participating in this year's dragon boat races.

Marines compete in international dragon boat races

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. STEPHEN. L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

NAGO CITY, Okinawa – Some teams donned matching shirts or kimonos while some of the participants from Camp Schwab had painted faces, jungle covers or unit t-shirts. All this dressing up was for the 23rd Annual Nago City Mayor's Cup Dragon Boat Races where participating teams were competing in hopes to claim this year's trophy.

The competition included 126 men's teams and 32 women's teams from as far away as Hawaii. Out of the 126 men's teams, the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion team, with a time of 1:50.3, ended in 45th place and barely missed the cut to go on to the semi-final round. The other Marine Corps teams to participate were Combat Engineer Company and Light Armored Recon., Combat Assault Battalion.

Gunnery Sgt. Russell J. Belanger, 3rd Recon. amphibious chief team captain for the 3rd Recon.

team said his team went out there prepared and pumped to win. Although the end result wasn't what he wanted, he feels very excited about their first run and their chances next year, because now they have the first time nervousness out of the way and know what they need to do.

Fumio Iha, community relation's specialist for Camp Schwab, felt this type of event with the local community is always exciting for the Marines.

"The Marines are excited to get invited to any local activities, particularly the sporting type competitions like the boat races," he said. "That's because it is rare for the service members to have many opportunities to get involved in these type of off base events."

With the Marines participating, it helped in the mayor of Nago City's goal of making this event more international.

"Our goal for this event is to become a more internationalized event," said Tateo Kishimoto,

mayor and chair of the Nago City Mayor's Cup Dragon Boat Executive Committee. "We like to have the Camp Schwab Marines in this particular competition to help do that."

For the Marines, this event is a great way for the locals to see them in a positive light, said Cpl. Ryan Smith, administrative clerk with Camp Schwab Camp Services.

Iha, who was also the English speaking master of ceremonies, said it was also a good way for the Marines to demonstrate their can-do attitude and never-give-up spirit.

Part of what generated the attitude within the 3rd Recon. team was the symbolism Belanger used for motivation.

Belanger said he took one look at the tournament board and he was reminded of the Marines climbing to the top of Mount Suribachi and reflected that this tournament was their way of getting to the top to raise their flag. Prior to their first heat, Belanger passed around a bottle of sand from Iwo Jima for the Marines to add more motivation and determination to their already burning fire.

"I believe that Gunnery Sgt. Belanger wanted to remind us that Marines are always struggling, that we are facing obstacles that must be overcome," said Lance Cpl. John L. Savaiinaea, legal clerk, Headquarters and Service Co., 3rd Recon. Bn. "That life is a battle and that we should treat it as such."

Despite not moving onto the semi-final round of the competition, the Marines mere presence in the event meant a lot to Nago City and its people Iha said. He added that some of the event organizers felt that the Marines sparked the event. The more Marines, the more excitement they said.

"With full participation and translation services for the event, it helps us (Camp Schwab) win a good reputation with the citizens of Nago," Iha said. "The people of Nago recognize that we are trying to contribute to their annual event, which is a big deal for them."

In the closing ceremony, Mayor Kishimoto said he and his fellow citizens consider Camp Schwab as part of his city, and that it is very natural to have the Marines to any activities that take place in Nago City.



Three Marine Corps teams joined 125 local and international teams at the 23rd annual Nago City Mayor's Cup Dragon Boat Races. All three Marine teams gave it their all but unfortunately fell short of moving onto the semi-final round.



Steve Hazlett completes the 4 km open-water race and makes his way to the finish line. Hazlett was one of four competitors who went the distance and completed the 4 km race. PHOTOS BY SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD

Amphibious warriors come together for olympics

SGT. STEPHEN L. STANDIFIRD
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP SCHWAB – Thirteen swim teams including teams from the Marine Corps and the local community gathered recently at the Camp Schwab 50-meter aquatics facility to compete in the 2001 Summer U.S. Military and Junior Olympic Pacific Rim Swimming and Open Water Championships.

“The 2001 Pacific Rim U.S. Military and Junior Olympic Swimming and

Open Water Championships, hosted by the Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Aquatics Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team, was well received by the competitors and spectators,” said Matthew Luebbers, head swim coach, MCCS Semper Fit Aquatics Okinawa Dolphins Swim Team. “More than 100 swimmers from ages six through 58, representing 13 teams, took part in the meet.”

Over three days the competition tested the swimmers’ endurance and time against the clock rather than each other. All the races are completed mixed, said Luebbers, but age, gender, event and military or civilian separates the scores.

Colin Chinn, a swimmer with the Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team, who recently returned from a meet in Tokyo, enjoys the benefits of swimming and has enjoyed them since he was 11.

“Swimming is a life-long sport and great exercise,” he said. “It keeps you healthy and thinking young and you can’t get seriously injured.”

Luebbers agreed with Chinn on swimming being something athletes can do

for a long time and still enjoy benefits at an older age.

“Swimming, like other aerobic exercise, is great for building general fitness, muscular and cardio-vascular endurance,” he said. “Swimming is an activity that can be enjoyed over a lifetime.”

In the first day of events, a variety of military and civilian swimmers tested their abilities in the longest pool event, the 1,500-meter freestyle. In the 19 to 26-year-old group, Mark Ackerman, swimmer with the Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team took first and in the 30 to 39-year-old group, Rich Deyoung, swimmer with the Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team, placed first.

The next two days of competition brought young and old athletes as well as several youth and adult Japanese teams together racing in events from the 50-meter freestyle to the 400-meter individual medley as well as several relay events. The military overall individual high point awards for the competition went to Anuradha Bhagwati, 7th Communications Battalion Swim Team, for the female age 19 to 26, Marc George, 7th Comm. Bn. Swim Team, in male 15 to 18, Michael McFerron, 7th Comm. Bn. Swim Team, in the 19 to 29 age group, Trevor Leonard, Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team, in the 30 to 39 age group and in the 40 to 49 age group Chinn finished first.

Chinn also achieved a personal goal by getting his best time in the last five years in the 50-meter freestyle race at this competition.

The meet’s final events took place at Oura-wan Beach. The rough water and strong current didn’t deter 21 swimmers from challenging their abil-

ity in the 2-km ocean race, said Luebbers. Additionally, four of the same swimmers continued on for a second lap to complete a 4-km swim. In the 2-km race Bhagwati, Ackerman and Chinn finished first in their respected groups and in the 30 to 39 age group, Steve Hazlett, Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team, finished first. Kevin Navas, of the A Company, 1st Bn., 12th Marines Swim Team, finished first in the 4-km race.

The other open-water event was a 500-meter swim where 20 swimmers took the challenge. Bhagwati, George, Navas won in their age divisions and Pat Crandall of the Okinawa Dolphins Military Swim Team finished first for the 30 to 39-year-olds.

Included in the 500-meter race were a couple 8-year-olds who beat out some of the adults, Luebbers added.

The Unit High Point Award for the highest scoring military team went to the 7th Comm. Bn. Swim Team. Their coach, McFerron, was proud of his team and felt they grew and learned as a team.

“I thought as a team we (7th Comm. Bn.) learned a lot about the sport and competition,” he said. “Through their hard work and long hours they developed into a decent swimming team.”

When all is said and done, Luebbers feels the athletes who competed feel much better than when they started.

“It’s complex to explain, but at the completion of a swimming workout, many athletes feel much better physically and mentally than when they began,” he said. “This has nothing to do with the skill level of the swimmer because this same experience can be found from beginners through world champions.”



As Ryder Clark finishes his stretch of the relay, Caleb Cook, both of the 3/7 Weapons Co Swim Team, dives in to finish the next stretch during the 2001 U.S. Military and Junior Olympic Pacific Rim Swimming and Open Water Championships.

3rd MRB Marines host beach bash for Orphans

STAFF SGT. NATHAN L. HANKS, JR.
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TORII STATION—More than 85 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Material Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, gave a Beach Bash at Torii Station for approximately 142 children from the Tai Chu En Orphanage recently.

The Beach Bash, which is hosted by Marines and Sailors from 3rd MRB each year, celebrated the Uminohi (Ocean) Day, an Okinawan holiday.

Uminohi Day, observed July 20, is a day set aside to celebrate the sea and for people to have a deeper appreciation for those who make a living from the sea.

"Everybody loves this annual beach bash," said Makio Yamamoto, director of Tai Chu En. "It is always a lot of fun."

Also in attendance were Tadshi Sugama, Naha City Assemblyman and Col. John Rankin, battalion commander, 3rd MRB.

The children were timid when the Marines first arrived; however, the children who recognized the Marines who visited Tai Chu En before broke down the barrier as they ran to them.

"When I went to the bus to help the children off, Tadishi, 4, ran from another bus and grabbed me and held on to me for the rest of the day," said Lance Cpl. Anthony Thomas, supply administrative clerk, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd MRB, 3rd FSSG.

Thomas, who was the assistant coordinator for the event, has known Tadishi from several events that he has participated in at Tai Chu En.

The Marines played beach ball, swam, and slid down the water slide with the children.

"The children that I played with were so full of energy and smiles," said Lance Cpl. Edward Chavez, supply administrative clerk, HQ Co., MRB, 3rd FSSG. "I am glad that I volunteered for the Beach Bash and I look forward to seeing the children again."

After playing in the water and running around squirting each other with water guns, it was time for lunch.

The Marines and Sailors wanted to share their favorite food with the children, which were hamburgers and hot dogs.

"They (the children) love the food —especially the hamburgers— and playing with the Marines," Yamamoto said. "This is a good experience for all the kids."

Through the interpreter, Hiromi Wohlgemuth, the Marines and Sailors were able to communicate and also share food.

The children and the volunteers resumed their water activities after lunch.

"They (children and the Marines) have good relations and I am very happy to see that," Yamamoto said.

The children, Sailors and Marines were smiling from ear to ear and before anyone knew it, it was time for them to go.

"The Beach Bash was a success," Thomas said. "I am looking forward to next years event."



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. NATHAN L. HANKS, JR

Yuki, 2, enjoys swimming at the 3rd MRB Beach Bash held at Torii Station July 27. Yuki was one of more than 140 children from Tai Chu En Orphanage who attended the annual event.



Although a language barrier separated them, this did not stop Masayuki, 11, an orphan at the Tai Chu En Orphanage, from sharing his hamburger with Lance Cpl. Mark L. Davis, engineer mechanic, Component Rebuilt Platoon, 3rd MRB.



An orphan from the Tai Chu Orphanage gets an alligator-raft ride from Sgt. John Santiago, motor transportation mechanic, 3rd MRB.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

OBO. 1990 Nissan Pressea — JCI Nov. 01, \$1,000 OBO. 646-2503.
1990 Nissan Sylvia — JCI July 03, \$2,000. 646-3548.
Harley Davidson scooter — \$100. 633-2520.
1995 Harley Super Glide — \$11,000 OBO. 090-3792-7660.
1991 Eunos Sentia — JCI Feb. 03, \$2,000 OBO. 643-7579.
1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI May 02, \$2,400. 090-3795-8622.
1990 Toyota Carina ED — JCI March 02, \$1,100 OBO. 622-5364.
1990 Toyota Surf 4x4 — JCI June 03, \$5,000 OBO. 090-7585-5270 or 098-968-5239.
1987 Mitsubishi Charlot — JCI Nov. 01, \$550 OBO. 645-9411 or 090-1946-4385.
1991 AZ3 — JCI Oct. 02, \$2,400. 633-9133 or 634-1616.
1991 Toyota Corona — JCI Jan. 02, \$1,800 OBO. 1991 Toyota Levin — JCI May 02, \$1,300 OBO. \$3,000 OBO takes both. 637-2088.
1991 Nissan Bluebird — JCI July 02, \$2,475 OBO. 646-6950 or 643-7600.
1999 Kawasaki Dual Sport KLR-650 — JCI May 03, \$3,800. 1999 Honda XR-100R — \$1,500 OBO. 637-2780.
1993 Honda Accord — JCI April 02, \$4,800 OBO. 646-2892.
1992 Honda Inspire — JCI Dec. 02, \$2,800 OBO. 090-7587-1552 or 623-4594.
1991 Toyota Camry — JCI March 02, \$3,000. 090-2584-4698.
1991 Skyline GTS-t — JCI July 03, \$3,800 OBO. 1991 Delica 4x4 — JCI Oct. 02, \$4,500 OBO. 622-5264.
1991 Nissan Skyline — JCI Feb. 03, \$3,500 OBO. 637-2004/1524.

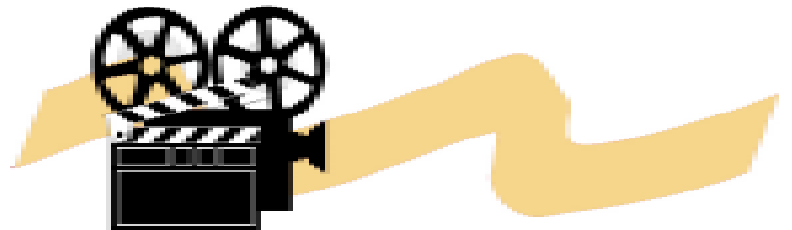


MISCELLANEOUS

Kayak — 16-foot Wilderness Systems ocean touring kayak with rudder and other accessories, \$800. 637-0054.
Lost — Skill saw and 18-inch long aluminum level in Futenma Housing area. If found, call 646-4051 or 636-3400.
Wanted — Affordable guitar lessons for 11-year-old son at home. Would like to pay by the lesson. 646-4890 or 643-7498.
Bedroom set — Nine-piece oak with headboard and footboard, two nightstands, dresser with mirror, two chests of drawers and chest, less than 1 year old, \$800. 939-7842.
Japanese fridge/freezer — SR-14 Sanyo, used for less than one year, 4.5-feet high, \$130. 090-3795-8622.
UCUM textbooks — Math 100, Math 105, Math 107, IFSM 300, IFSM 304, IFSM 310 and English 102. Best offer on all. 646-5872 or 090-2718-8975.
Misc. — KDS 15-inch computer monitor, liquid crystal, flat screen display, built-in speakers, 3-year warranty, \$600; scuba gear, med rig 2 BCD, Viper Tech Reg., Med Body Glove wetsuit, size 10 booties, mask, snorkle and fins, \$700 OBO. 090-1948-8955 or e-mail usmc_irvin@hotmail.com.
Misc. — Couch, blue bassett, 3 years old, \$500; couch, multicolored, sectional with sleeper sofa, 2 recliners and massager, 6 months old, \$1,200. 646-5789.
Printer — Panasonic dot matrix, table, paper, \$30. 645-2792/3082.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...

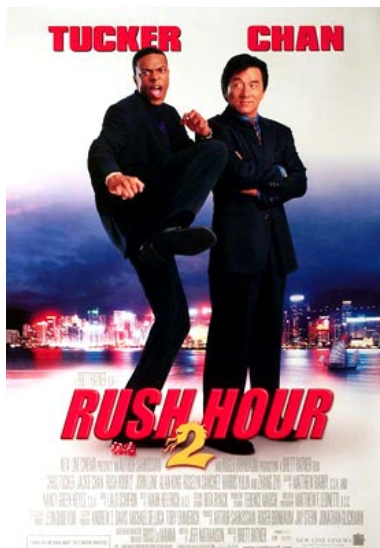


Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes. Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Schwab (625-2333)
Fri The Tailor of Panama (R); 7:00
Sat What's the Worst That Could Happen? (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sat A.I.: Artificial Intelligence (PG13); 12:00
Sun Shrek (PG); 3:00, 6:00
Mon Joe Dirt (PG13); 7:00
Tue Joe Dirt (PG13); 7:00
Wed Closed
Thu Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00
Hansen (623-4564)
Fri Jurassic Park III (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sat Jurassic Park III (PG13); 6:00, 9:00
Sat Cats & Dogs (PG); 11:00
Sun Pearl Harbor (PG13); 2:00, 5:30
Mon The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:00
Tue The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:00
Wed Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Thu Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Courtney (622-9616)
Fri Rush Hour 2 (PG13); 7:00
Sat The Tailor of Panama (R); 7:00

Sun What's the Worst That Could Happen? (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Inspector Gadget (PG); 1:00
Wed Shrek (PG); 7:00
Thu Closed
Keystone (634-1869)
Fri Rush Hour 2 (PG13); 6:30
Fri The Score (R); 9:30
Sat Moulin Rouge (PG13); 1:00
Sat The Mummy Returns (PG13); 5:30
Sat Rush Hour 2 (PG13); 8:30
Sun The Mummy Returns (PG13); 2:00
Sun Pearl Harbor (PG13); 5:30
Sun Rush Hour 2 (R); 8:30
Mon Star Wars-Episode 1: The Phantom Menace (PG) 1:00
Mon Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00
Tue Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Wed 102 Dalmatians (G); 1:00
Wed Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Thu Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:00
Butler (645-3465)
Fri Planet of the Apes (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sat Planet of the Apes (PG13); 1:00, 4:00, 7:00

Sat Pearl Harbor (PG13); 10:00
Sun Planet of the Apes (PG13); 1:00, 4:00
Sun Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Mon Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Tue Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00
Wed Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00
Thu Rush Hour 2 (PG13); 7:00
Futenma (636-3890)
Fri Kingdom Come (PG); 7:30
Sat Shrek (PG); 6:00
Sat The Fast and the Furious (PG13); 11:00
Sun The Tailor of Panama (R); 6:00
Mon Jurassic Park III (PG13); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed Planet of the Apes (PG13); 7:30
Thu Closed
Kinser (637-2177)
Fri What's the Worst That Could Happen? (PG13); 7:00
Sat The Mummy Returns (PG13); 3:00
Sat Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue The Mummy Returns (PG13); 7:00
Wed Pearl Harbor (PG13); 7:00
Thu Moulin Rouge (PG13); 7:00



Check Courtney, Keystone, and Butler Theaters for show times.



Check Hansen, Keystone, and Futenma Theaters for show times.



Check Hansen, Keystone, Butler and Kinser Theaters for show times.